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38. LATE PULMONARY COMPLICATION OF MUSTARD GAS INHALATION

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ABSTRACT

Thousands of Iranian people were injured by mustard gas in the Iraq war. This injury results in chronic disabilities of eyes, lung and skin organs. Chronic cough, dyspnea and hemoptysis were the major presenting symptoms in these patients. We studied late pulmonary complications of these patients.

One hundred mustard gas victims were selected through a cross sectional study. All selected had documented criteria, pulmonary function tests, high resolution chest CT scan, bronchoscopy and routine blood tests, which were done in a well equipped center.

All patients had chronic bronchitis in their bronchial biopsy. Pulmonary fibroses, with different types of histology, were detected in 80% of patients. A cytologic study of bronchial lavage did not show neoplastic cells. HRCT findings were compatible with bronchial thickening and subpleural fibrosis with definite correlation with histologic data in all patients.

Late complications of mustard gas includes bronchial and paranchymal involvement. Although the causative agent is not present, the disease has a continuous nature and sometimes progressive course, with end-stage lung disease the outcome.

KEYWORDS:

Mustard, mustard gas poisoning, lung disease, pulmonary function